

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT	Reshuffle in the Bulgarian Ministry of National Defense	DATE DISTR.	22 July 1954	
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. An important reshuffle has taken place in the Ministry of National Defense following the death of General Grekov. Lieutenant General Ivan Kinov was appointed first vice minister and is chiefly responsible for military training.<sup>1</sup> Lieutenant General Yonko Panov<sup>2</sup> was appointed second vice minister and commander of the Rear Services, to replace General Milchev. Lieutenant General Zakhari Zakhariiev, commander of the Bulgarian Air Force,<sup>3</sup> was appointed third vice minister and is responsible for the selection and political training of the cadres; he replaces both in title and in duties, General Atanas Atanasov, whose work was considered inadequate.<sup>4</sup>

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2. [REDACTED] General Panchev, Chief of Staff of the Bulgarian Air Force, allegedly succeeded General Zakhariiev as Chief of the Bulgarian Air Force.

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Comments:

1. It is now public knowledge that General Kinov is vice minister of National Defense. It is logical that he should be first vice minister and in charge of training since it is well known that he is reputed to be the most capable general of the Bulgarian Army and that the former first vice minister of National Defense, General Grekov, was in charge of the training of officer cadres.

2. The report concerning Yonko Panov is also probably true. During the 1 May celebration, General Panov stood at the right of General Kinov, who, in turn, was at the right of General Panchevski, Minister of National Defense.

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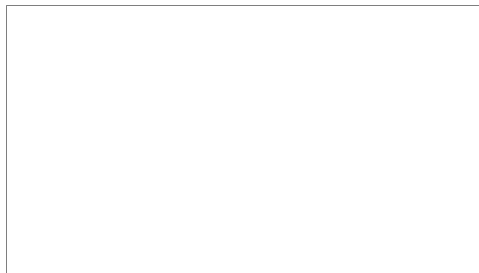
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3. It is not known definitely if the duties of the third vice minister of National Defense are actually those he is credited with here or if they do not rather apply to the Bulgarian Air force only. General Zakhariiev and General Atanas Atanasov are in fact both fliers. It is also possible that General Panchev may have taken over command of the Air Force. It was he who, on 1 April 1954, inaugurated the Art Exposition of the Bulgarian Air Force.
4. The reshuffle which has taken place in the Ministry of National Defense constitutes, because of the qualities and the authority of the new appointees, a definite improvement in this ministry. If the information concerning the duties of the third vice minister and concerning the reasons for General Atanasov's falling into disgrace is true, it may mean that the state of mind of the officers is not satisfactory.



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